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Lisa M. Snyder
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[Signature] 12/18/2006
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of)
Gunnar Hultquist et al.) Examiner: R. Palabrica
) Art Unit: 3663
Title: A NUCLEAR FUEL ROD)
) Confirmation No. 5447
Serial No.: 10/537,954)
)
Filed: June 8, 2005) (Docket No. 1026-0002WOUS)

Middletown, Connecticut, December 18, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed November 20, 2006, having a period for response set to expire on December 20, 2006.

According to the Examiner, the application contains claims directed to two distinct inventions, viz., Invention I and Invention II. The subject matter of Invention I is embodied in claims 15-25, which are drawn to a nuclear fuel assembly/rod, and the subject matter of Invention II is embodied in claims 26-29, which are drawn to the manufacturing of nuclear fuel rods. The Examiner alleges that the subject matter of Inventions I and II are related as a process of making and product made.

Furthermore, the Examiner indicates that two distinct species are also present, viz., the species of Group A in which a cladding tube is made of zirconium and the species of Group B in which a cladding tube is made of a zirconium-based alloy, and that upon the election of either Invention I or II, one of the disclosed species must be elected.